Philosophy 7: Biomedical Ethics Winter Quarter 2009

Paper #2 Topics

Second Paper: Due Mon. March 9th at the end of lecture to Carmen (our TA). (Note the change in due date from the syllabus)

The essays should be **at least 4 pages long but no more than 5 pages**, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12 point font. This paper is worth 35% of your course grade.

Excellent advice about writing philosophy is available on the James Pryor website: http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html . Carmen and I can give you further tips as well. Unexcused late papers will be penalized one-third grade for each day they are late.

Write on **ONE** of the following topics, answering each part of that topic:

1. Alcoholics and Liver Disease:

Clearly explain Moss and Siegler's case for why people with ARESLD *should not* compete equally with those with ESLD for donor livers (your explanation should contain their view on how alcoholics are responsible for their condition).

- Why do Moss and Siegler think that people other than alcoholics who are responsible for their life threatening condition should compete equally for life saving resources?
- Is Moss and Siegler's case (or a part of their case) utilitarian, why or why not? Clearly explain the (moral, not the medical) argument by Cohen and Benjamin for why alcoholics *should* compete equally for donor livers (this argument by Cohen and Benjamin can be seen as an objection to Moss and Siegler).
 - Explain how Moss and Siegler might respond to Cohen and Benjamin's argument (here you should explain what you take to be the strongest objection to Cohen and Benjamin's argument).
 - Finally, explain who you think has the most compelling case overall and why.

2. <u>AIDS and Confidentiality</u>

In the case about Carlos, a 21-year-old Hispanic male who has HIV, points to the difficulty that arises between patient confidentiality and the possible danger confidentiality may have for Consuela, his caretaker and sister.

- Clearly explain the moral dilemma with the case.
- What are the relevant arguments for both breaking confidentiality and keeping confidentiality? Be sure to address Winston's arguments as well as Fleck's and Angell's.
- If you were Carlos' doctor, what would you do? Be sure to give an argument (s) for your position as well as replying to potential objections to your position.